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Docket No: 02309/000H713-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/675,890 Art Unit: 1771  
Applicant : Naohito TAKEUCHI et al.  
Filed : September 29, 2000 Examiner: Terrel H. Morris  
Title : WATER-DECOMPOSABLE FIBROUS SHEET CONTAINING  
GEL COMPOUND

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the March 15, 2004 telephone conversation between Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Terrel Morris and Michael Sullivan (agent for Applicants), during which SPE Morris confirmed receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on December 3, 2003 in the above-referenced application and acknowledged that the references cited therein had been

considered prior to allowance of this application.

Furthermore, while Applicants believe that the certification made in the December 3, 2003 IDS is fully compliant with Rule 1.97(e (1)), Applicants hereby re-certify as follows:

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement submitted by Applicants on December 3, 2003 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

In view of the December 3, 2003 certification and the above re-certification, Applicants respectfully request that the record reflect the Examiner's prior consideration of the references cited on the December 3, 2003 IDS by initialing the list of references (Form PTO/SB/08) submitted therewith, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 18, 2004

By: Dianna Goldenson  
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Letter  
Serial No. 09/675,890

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 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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|---|---|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                    |
|   |   |    |   | Application Number       | 09/075,890         |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | September 29, 2000 |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Nachito Takeuchi   |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 1771               |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | John J. Guarriello |
|   |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number   | 02309/000H713-USO  |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 |                          |                    |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS    |                       |  |                                   |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY    | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |                |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                                   |  |   |                |
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document<br>Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          | 1.                    | EP 0 758 695   | 02-19-1997                        | Japan Tobacco Inc; Nishima<br>Paper Co. Ltd.       |   |                |
|                          | 2.                    | EP 0 372 388   | 06-13-1990                        | KAO Corp.  |   |                |
|                          | 3.                    | EP 0 926 299   | 06-30-1999                        | Uni Charm Corp.                                    |   |                |
|                          | 4.                    | EP 0 802 282   | 10-22-1997                        | Uni Charm Corp.                                    |   |                |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 601.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials*              | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T <sup>2</sup> |
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|